Hurricane Sandy Assistance



Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance

Federal, state and local authorities are actively engaged in response and recovery operations in the wake of Hurricane Sandy in more than a dozen states.

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) are also responding with emergency shelters and other resources for citizens in need. But the sheer size of this disaster will stretch the resources of these organizations. They are sure to need additional help and resources.

Minnesotans have always been at the forefront in volunteering and providing support to their fellow Americans in times need. The following information is a guide for people who are ready to help today. For more specific information, contact the VOAD organization of your choice or follow the links provided here.

Donations

By far, the most useful donation in any disaster is money. Donated funds can be used to purchase the *exact goods needed* for response and recovery.

If you are interested in donating money or other items, contact the voluntary organization of your choice directly, contact the American Red Cross, visit the National VOAD website to find a participating volunteer organization, or contact the local United Way organization in a specific state or city for more information. To donate bulk goods (or money) visit the National Donations Management Network website.

Do not assume any particular item may be useful. Always check with authorities before sending anything. Sending un-needed goods into an affected area can complicate or hinder disaster operations and unnecessarily delay assistance to those who need it.

Other useful links:

www.nvoad.org

www.redcross.org

www.unitedway.org

Volunteers

Volunteers can provide time, abilities and expertise to communities as they recover from Hurricane Sandy. The best way is to do so is through a recognized VOAD. These organizations, such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and many others, provide trained disaster workers who work closely with state and local authorities to organize and coordinate volunteer activities.

The National VOAD Website (<u>www.nvoad.org</u>) has general information and a list of recognized member organizations.

Information on the need for volunteers for a specific state or community can be found on that state or city's websites.

Businesses with specialized equipment, technicians, specialists or services who wish to volunteer/donate should contact local county or city emergency management agencies.

Useful links for volunteers:

www.serve.gov

www.networkforgood.org

www.nvoad.org

www.citizencorps.gov

www.americorps.gov

FEMA

For more information on volunteering and donations for Hurricane Sandy visit the FEMA website:

http://www.fema.gov/volunteer-donate-responsibly

State and City Emergency Management websites:

ConnecticutNew HampshireRhode IslandDelawareNew York (state)VermontDist. Of ColumbiaNew York CityVirginiaMarylandNew Jersey

BaltimoreNorth CarolinaMassachusettsPennsylvaniaMainePhiladelphia